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Sustainable and Safe Process and Product Development supported by Risk assessment, and Life Cycle assessments

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A new process and technology should not provide a higher risk to workers and the society compared to established processes and products. New products need to be safe for consumers and harmless to the environment. An example for the dilemma is for instance the development and application of biomaterials. They may be regarded as sustainable alternatives within a wide range of applications, but in order to be in compliance with regulations as e.g. building fire safety codes, larger amounts of additives have to be added that may compromise the environmental friendliness of the biomaterials.

Based on the experience of former conducted European projects the application of risk assessment and life cycle assessments to support development of innovative new products and technologies is described. The combination of these methods provide the means to both assess the industrial and consumer safety aspects together with the environmental, economic and social aspects.